

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 01871 271822Z

73

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 CU-04 OPR-02 SY-04 AID-05 /049 W

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R 271456Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO "/SECSTATE WASHDC 8150

INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN BY POUCH

AMCONSUL KADUNA

UNCLAS LAGOS 01871

E.O. 11652: NN/A

TAGS: PINS, NI

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITIES REMAIN CLOSED

REF: LAGOS 1552

1. IN WAKE SEVERAL DAYS CONFUSION OVER POSSIBLE REOPENING OF THREE UNIVERSITIES CLOSED EARLIER THIS MONTH AS RESULT STUDENT DEMONSTRATION, FMG FEBRUARY 26 ANNOUNCED THAT TIME NOT YET RIPE AND THREE CAMPUSES WILL REMAIN SHUT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

2. UNCERTAINTY ABOUT STATUS OF UNIVERSITIES CAUSED BY ATTEMPT IFE AND IBADAN OFFICIALS TO REOPEN THEIR CAMPUSES ON BASIS LOCAL DECISION, WHICH HAS NOW BEEN OVERRULED BY FMG. UNIVERSITY OF IFE SENATE ISSUED PUBLIC CALL FOR STUDENTS TO RETURN TO CAMPUS FEBRUARY 26, BUT THEIR ORDER WAS COUNTERMANDED BY WESTERN STATE GOVERNOR ROTIMI IN HIS CAPACITY AS UNIVERSITY VISITOR (I.E. ULTIMATE AUTHORITY). UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN SENATE HAD ISSUED SIMILAR INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS WITH REPORTING DATE OF MARCH 1, BUT THIS HAS NOW BEEN EFFECTIVELY CANCELLED BY FMG DECISION.

3. ACCORDING FMG STATEMENT, IT IS NECESSARY TO WAIT FOR SITUATION WHICH CULMINATED IN CLOSING OF UNIVERSITIES TO RETURN TO NORMAL BEFORE THEY CAN BE REOPENED. STATEMENT ADDED THAT

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 01871 271822Z

NECESSARY STEPS TO THIS END ARE BEING TAKEN, AND FMG ANXIOUS

THAT "FINAL YEAR STUDENTS AND VAST MAJORITY WHO ARE LAW ABIDING"
RETURN TO CLASS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. STATEMENT CONCLUDED THAT
FMG WILL ANNOUNCE DATE FOR REOPENING, BUT GAVE NO INDICATION
AS TO PROBABLE TIMING.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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